United Nations A/70/1027

General Assembly

Distr.: General
25 August 2016

Original: English

Seventieth session
Agenda items 20 and 79 (a)

Sustainable development

Oceans and the law of the sea

Letter dated 25 August 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Fiji to the United Nations and the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We are writing to inform you that owing to accommodation and other logistical constraints in Fiji caused by the widespread devastation of Tropical Cyclone Winston that struck the nation of Fiji this year, the Governments of Sweden and Fiji have proposed to transfer to United Nations Headquarters the venue of the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and Sustainably Use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development.

The proposed change of the Conference venue recognizes the intense rehabilitation efforts being undertaken by the Government of Fiji in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Winston, which are focused on rebuilding homes, schools, hospitals and critical infrastructure in Fiji, besides addressing the physical trauma and hardship faced by the affected individuals and communities. In that endeavour, the assistance provided by the international community to the Government of Fiji has been invaluable. Transferring the venue of the Conference from Fiji to United Nations Headquarters will reflect the proper balancing of the most pressing humanitarian need of Fiji caused by Tropical Cyclone Winston and the importance of convening a successful Conference that achieves substantial progress on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14.

The change of the Conference venue is proposed to be reflected in the draft resolution on the modalities for the Conference, which is expected to be adopted by the General Assembly before the conclusion of the seventieth session. The Governments of Fiji and Sweden remain committed to fulfilling their co-hosting responsibilities for the Conference, including financial responsibilities.

16-14888 (E) 310816

Please recycle

We would be grateful if the present letter would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Luke **Daunivalu**
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Fiji
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Joakim **Vaverka**
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Sweden
to the United Nations